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U-2 Review

To the Editor of The Courier:

In his letter to The Courier on Oct. 27, Harry Cleavelin stated that peace is preferable to prestige and I agree with him, but can we continue to have peace if we lose our prestige in the world. We can not go it alone against the Communists, we must have allies, and the neutral nations want to be with the strength.

Ten years ago the Russians wouldn't dare sass us back, but since Sputnik I our prestige has been slipping and on May Day 1960 when our U-2 spy plane was brought down and President Eisenhower put the finger on Gary Powers, the pilot, our prestige took a nose dive. "Among nations at peace with each other, espionage is never officially admitted but is almost always practiced." Few hours after Khrushchev's bellicose report from Moscow, the Central Intelligence Agency and Allen Dulles—the chief architects of the aerial spy program—kept a discreet silence. They knew nothing about any spy plane.

Yet, while Dulles and his C.I.A. kept lips buttoned, the old soldier, Dwight David Eisenhower, who knew the ageless code of espionage as well as any man, suddenly decided to change the ground rules governing spy etiquette. From his office in the White House he admitted the U-2, piloted by Powers was on a spying mission over Soviet territory for the U.S.

Ike's colossal blunder was so unprecedented that the experts on such matters found little cause to wonder why Khrushchev became so thunderously agitated. The Red ruler's fury was maximized when he singlehandedly scuttled the Paris Summit Conference about a fortnight later.

But the bewilderment was not all Khrushchev's. Some of our allies were reeled with surprise and dismay as the incident exploded into vituperative Soviet blasts, saber rattling and beyond, to the frightening precipice of a hot atomic war. Nixon said he agreed with Ike on the U-2 incident, and he says Kennedy is immature and talks before he thinks, but I don't think Jack is immature enough to

pull a boner like Ike did in the U-2 incident.

W. KLEIN
Evansville

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